

## BEES AND HONEY

Honey production from producers with five or more colonies in Kentucky during 2003 totaled 240,000 pounds, down 11 percent from 2002. Producers harvested honey from 5,000 colonies in 2003, unchanged from a year earlier. Each colony produced an average of 48 pounds of honey during 2003, compared to 54 pounds in 2002. Prices for the 2003 honey crop averaged \$1.64 per pound, up one cent from the 2002 average of \$1.63. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and co-ops. Kentucky producers had 14,000 pounds of honey for sale on December 15, 2003, compared with 78,000 pounds on hand the previous year.

United States honey production in 2003 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 181 million pounds, up 5 percent from 2002. There were 2.59 million colonies producing honey in 2003, up 1 percent from 2002. Yield per colony averaged 69.9 pounds, up 5 percent from the 66.7 pounds in 2002. Producer honey stocks were 40.7 million pounds on December 15, 2003, up 3 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude stocks held under the commodity loan program. Prices increased to a record high during 2003 to 140.4 cents, up 6 percent from 132.7 cents in 2002.

### KENTUCKY NUMBER OF COLONIES, PRODUCTION, STOCKS AND VALUE 1980 - 2003 <sup>1/</sup>

Year	Number of Colonies	Yield per Colony	Production	Stocks Dec. 15	Average Price Per Pound	Value of Production
	(1,000)	(Pounds)	(1,000 Pounds)	(1,000 Pounds)	(Cents)	(1,000 Dollars)
1980	52	27	1,404	216	95.3	1,338
1981	56	21	1,176	200	110.0	1,294
1986 <sup>2/</sup>	15	15	225	86	98.0	221
1987	14	25	350	147	96.0	336
1988	12	40	480	202	106.0	509
1989	12	29	348	132	108.0	376
1990	8	44	352	127	92.0	324
1991	7	25	175	88	96.0	168
1992	4	30	120	54	74.0	89
1993	4	60	240	89	84.0	202
1994	3	54	162	57	98.0	159
1995	3	44	132	30	102.0	135
1996	3	60	180	23	127.0	229
1997	3	60	180	54	148.0	266
1998	3	50	150	51	140.0	210
1999	3	50	150	12	124.0	186
2000 <sup>3/</sup>	4	48	192	54	135.0	259
2001 <sup>3/</sup>	4	78	312	125	141.0	440
2002 <sup>3/</sup>	5	54	270	78	163.0	440
<b>2003</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>164.0</b>	<b>394</b>

<sup>1/</sup>Estimates discontinued 1982-1985. <sup>2/</sup>Beginning in 1986, estimates are for beekeepers with 5 or more hives; prior to 1986, estimates covered all beekeepers. <sup>3/</sup>Revised.